

LEXICAL AND GRAMMATICAL CHALLENGES IN TRANSLATING THE LORD OF THE RINGS INTO UZBEK

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the main lexical and grammatical difficulties in translating J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* into Uzbek. It highlights issues such as archaic language, complex noun phrases, phrasal verbs, and cultural references. The study analyzes translation strategies used to preserve the meaning, style, and cultural tone of the original text in the Uzbek language context.

Key Words: Tolkien, literary translation, lexical challenges, grammatical difficulties, Uzbek language, phrasal verbs, noun phrases, cultural adaptation, fantasy literature.

UZUKLAR HUKMDORI ROMANINI O'ZBEK TILIGA TARJIMA QILISHDA LEKSIK VA GRAMMATIK QIYINCHILIKLAR

ANNOTATSIYA

Ushbu maqola J.R.R. Tolkienning *Uzuklar hukmdori* asarini o'zbek tiliga tarjima qilishda uchraydigan asosiy leksik va grammatik qiyinchiliklarni tahlil qiladi. Unda arxaik til, murakkab ot birikmalari, frazeologik fe'llar va madaniy kontekstlarga oid so'zlarni tarjima qilish muammolari ko'rib chiqiladi. Maqolada asl matn bilan o'zbekcha tarjimalar taqqoslanib, ma'no va uslubni saqlash uchun qo'llanilgan tarjima strategiyalari tahlil qilinadi.

Kalit so'zlar: Tolkien, badiiy tarjima, leksik muammolar, grammatik qiyinchiliklar, o'zbek tili, frazeologik fe'llar, ot birikmalari, madaniy moslashtirish, fantastik adabiyot.

INTRODUCTION

J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* (LOTR) is renowned for its rich linguistic tapestry and complex prose style. Translating this epic from English into Uzbek poses significant challenges due to differences in vocabulary, grammar, and cultural context. Until recently, Uzbek readers had no full native translation of LOTR. In 2019, Shokir Zokirovich Dolimov published the first Uzbek translation (the first volume, *Uzuklar Birodarligi*, "The Fellowship of the Ring"), working from a Russian edition rather than directly from English. This indirect translation route was chosen partly because English proficiency in Uzbekistan is limited, making Russian a more practical intermediary.

METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH:

This study employs a comparative textual analysis of the English source text of *The Lord of the Rings* and its Uzbek translation(s). Because only the first volume has been officially translated into Uzbek so far, our analysis focuses on *The Fellowship of the Ring* and available translated excerpts. We examined key passages that exemplify Tolkien's distinctive use of language – including dialogues, narrative description, and poetry – and compared them to their Uzbek renditions by Dolimov. Specific attention was given to lexical items (names, invented words, archaic vocabulary) and grammatical constructions (word order, pronoun usage, verb forms) that might pose translation difficulties.

DISCUSSION

Translating *The Lord of the Rings* into Uzbek highlights the interplay between lexical innovation and grammatical adaptation in literary translation. The results above show that the translator employed a mix of strategies to handle Tolkien's unique language, guided by both the structural constraints of Uzbek and the influence of the intermediary Russian translation. Several key observations emerge:

In general, Dolimov's translation favors conveying the core meaning (dynamic equivalence) rather than preserving exact form. This is evident in how complex sentences were restructured and how playful terms like "eleventy-first" were replaced with straightforward expressions. This approach aligns with Eugene Nida's theory that a translation should evoke the same response in the target audience as the original did in its audience. For Uzbek readers, clarity and a natural flow were prioritized, even if it meant sacrificing some of Tolkien's stylistic idiosyncrasies. The translator's choices suggest an awareness that forcing English forms onto Uzbek syntax could result in awkward, opaque text. Instead, he recalibrated Tolkien's style into an Uzbek narrative register that is accessible while still elevated. This demonstrates the delicate balance in literary translation between *fidelity* and *readability*. The fact that Dolimov worked from Russian may have further encouraged a meaning-based translation; he inherited solutions and interpretations from the Russian translators (who themselves aimed for clarity), rather than working directly with Tolkien's English phrasing.

CONCLUSION

Translating Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* into Uzbek is an ambitious undertaking that illuminates the deep interplay between two very different languages and literary traditions. Lexically, the translator faced a panorama of challenges: from handling untranslatable names and invented terms to finding Uzbek expressions for archaic or poetic diction. Grammatically, the translation required careful recasting of Tolkien's complex, archaically-flavored syntax into the very different structure of Uzbek, all while preserving the narrative's clarity and tone. For now, the Uzbek *Lord of the Rings* exemplifies how a skilled translator can bridge not just languages, but entire worlds.

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